

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BUDAPE 02784 180313Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 /024 W

-----075921 180318Z /72

R 171414Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9171

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 2784

USIAC

USIA FOR IEU

WARSAW FOR SENATOR MC GOVERN

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: SENATOR GEORGE MC GOVERN'S PRESS CONFERENCE, AUGUST 16

1. AT THE END OF HIS VISIT TO BUDAPEST (AUGUST 13-16)

SENATOR MC GOVERN HELD AN AIRPORT ON-THE-RECORD NEWS  
CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY 14 JOURNALISTS REPRESENTING  
HUNGARIAN MEDIA, AS WELL AS AP, UPI AND REUTERS.

2. SENATOR MC GOVERN REPLIED TO QUESTIONS ON DETENTE,  
MFN, THE NEUTRON BOMB, THE HUNGARIAN CROWN AND HUNGARY  
AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST DURING THE 30 MINUTE  
SESSION.

3. COMMENTING OF DETENTE, MC GOVERN SAID THAT HE WAS  
OPTIMISTIC THAT THE PROCESS WOULD CONTINUE AND THAT THERE  
WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO DETENTE. IN CONNECTION WITH  
THIS, HE MENTIONED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN GENEVA BEFORE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BUDAPE 02784 180313Z

COMING TO BUDAPEST AND THAT HE HAD A THREE HOUR  
MEETING WITH THE CHIEF OF THE SOVIET SALT DELEGATION,  
SEMYONOV, WHILE THERE. ON MFN HE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY  
SUPPORTS IT, BUT BELIEVES THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH  
MUST TAKE THE INITIATIVE ON IMPLEMENTING IT FOR  
HUNGARY. ASKED HIS VIEWS ON THE NEUTRON BOMB, HE REPLIED  
THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO REFUSE

TO BUILD THE B-1 BOMBER, SINCE THE INITIAL DECISION TO DEVELOP THE BOMBER WAS MADE DURING PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S ADMINISTRATION. THAT IN ITSELF, MC GOVERN CONTINUED, WAS A SIGNIFICANT DECISION ON THE PART OF THIS ADMINISTRATION BECAUSE IT LIMITS THE BUILDING OF NEW STRATEGIC WEAPONS SYSTEMS FOR THE FIRST TIME. SPECIFICALLY ON THE NEUTRON BOMB, HE FELT THAT IT PROVIDES NO PARTICULAR ADVANTAGE SINCE THE ADDITION OF THAT WEAPON WILL NOT CHANGE THE MILITARY BALANCE. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE VOTED AGAINST THE NEUTRON BOMB IN THE SENATE AND THAT HE WAS GENERALLY OPPOSED TO IT. COMMENTING ON THE CROWN, SENATOR MC GOVERN SAID THAT HE FELT THE CROWN SHOULD BE RETURNED TO HUNGARY RATHER SOONER THAN LATER. FINALLY, ON THE QUESTION OF HUNGARY AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST, HE POINTED TO HUNGARY'S HISTORIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WEST, ITS UNDERSTANDING OF WESTERN WAYS AND AT THE SAME TIME ITS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP TO THE SOVIET UNION. BECAUSE OF THE UNUSUAL TIES IN BOTH DIRECTIONS SENATOR MC GOVERN FELT THAT HUNGARY COULD PLAY A UNIQUE ROLE IN THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST AND CONTRIBUTE TO GREATER UNDERSTANDING ON BOTH SIDES.

4. COVERAGE OF SENATOR MC GOVERN'S REMARKS WAS ALMOST COMPLETE, ALTHOUGH NOT ALL POINTS WERE REPORTED IN ALL PAPERS. THE ONLY EXCEPTION WAS THE THOUGHT THAT HUNGARY COULD ACT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BUDAPE 02784 180313Z

WAS NOT REPORTED AT ALL. IN ADDITION TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE A SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH VILAGGASZDASAG, THE DAILY ECONOMIC NEWSPAPER, WAS ALSO PUBLISHED IN THAT NEWSPAPER. IN THAT INTERVIEW SENATOR MC GOVERN EXPANDED HIS VIEWS ON MFN FOR HUNGARY. HE SAID THAT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN MFN, HUNGARY WILL HAVE TO GIVE "CERTAIN ASSURANCES", BUT THAT THERE SHOULD BE "NO PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES." HE WAS ALSO ASKED IF HIS CUBAN TRIP WAS AN OPENING BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND HAVANA AND WHAT NEXT STEP WOULD BE. IN REPLY SENATOR MC GOVERN SAID THAT THE TRADE EMBARGO SHOULD BE LIFTED AT LEAST PARTIALLY AS A FIRST STEP.

5. COMMENT: THE HUNGARIAN MFA ARRANGED THIS PRESS CONFERENCE AT OUR REQUEST. IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM THE TURN-OUT OF JOURNALISTS THAT THEY CONSIDERED MC GOVERN'S VISIT TO BE SIGNIFICANT. CONSIDERING THAT SENATOR MC GOVERN'S CODEL WAS THE THIRD ONE DURING THE SPACE OF ONE WEEK, AND THAT THE OTHER TWO DELEGATIONS ALSO RECEIVED MEDIA ATTENTION BOTH ON TV, RADIO AND IN THE PRESS, WE CONSIDER THAT THE TURN OUT AND THE INTEREST FOR THIS PRESS CONFERENCE WAS ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE HUNGARIAN'S UNUSUAL RESPONSIVENESS TO HIGH LEVEL

U.S. VISITORS AT THIS TIME.  
EISENSTADT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DETENTE, VISITS, PRESS CONFERENCES, NUCLEAR BOMBS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 17-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BUDAPE02784  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770298-0720  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BUDAPEST  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770854/aaaabtrx.tel  
**Line Count:** 118  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 1c336b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1581406  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SENATOR GEORGE MC GOVERN'S PRESS CONFERENCE, AUGUST 16  
**TAGS:** OREP, SOPN, PARM, HU, (MCGOVERN, GEORGE)  
**To:** USIA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/1c336b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009